

~~ED 200901~~
Project Number (to be assigned by ABP) 200901

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FISCAL YEAR 2011 ANNUAL PLAN PROJECT NOMINATION FORM

1. Nominating Party (Please note affiliation, i.e. Parish, Association, Organization)

Name: Mr. Jens A. "J.A." Rummler Affiliation: Pointe Coupee Parish

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2. Statement of the Problem. (Please give a brief description of problem and current area conditions. If you think the problem relates to water quality, sediment accumulation, access, forest health, fisheries or other issues, please indicate as well).

Upper Pointe Coupee Parish (UPCP) is located entirely within the boundaries of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway and is composed primarily of a rural agricultural area that is completely surrounded by levees along the Mississippi River, Atchafalaya River and the Morganza Spillway. Surface waters drain from this area through a single gravity structure into the Morganza Spillway and through the Johnson Bayou Pumping Station located at the southeastern end of this levee enclosed area.

Agricultural stakeholders have been reporting increased flooding and water levels within the UCP to the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service since at least 2006. Some have suggested that canal and conveyance blockages are part of the cause of this increasing flooding but without consensus and a thorough unbiased understanding of the problem, the stakeholders have been unable to move forward to sustainably address their water quality and water quantity management concerns.

The problem could very likely be associated with sediment accumulation in channels that were dug for drainage purposes as long ago as the 1940's up into the 1970's. The water resource problems are contributing to deleterious effects on forest health, riparian habitat, and fisheries.

3. Project Boundary: (attach map showing specific location of project area):

Parish: Pointe Coupee Water Management Unit (if known): Big Alabama

Lat/Long (if known): _____

4. Affected Area: (attach map of the area anticipated to benefit from project- if known)

SEE ATTACHED MAPS

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5. Action Description: (any proposed action or suggestion to rectify the problem. List any anticipated benefits from the project-if known)

The purpose of this project is to determine the specific extent and location of the flooding affecting UCP, collate input from the stakeholders on watershed conditions, conduct preliminary field investigations, and meet with individual stakeholders as well as hosting a public meeting with the purpose being to receive as much input from the stakeholders as possible. The project will also collect, review, and evaluate existing information on the water resources in the Upper Pointe Coupee area including flooding reports, LIDAR, modern and historical aerial photography and maps, NRCS information on past watershed reclamation projects, and any other pertinent information that might be available from local and state government and agencies.

After setting up the stakeholder-based framework for reporting, reviewing, and analyzing the problems, this project will move directly into the development of a Hydrologic and Hydraulic model that will can be used by the parish and others to sustainably address the problems that the stakeholders are experiencing.

6. Survey and Preliminary Assessments: (Please attach any pertinent information or documents that you might have pertaining to the problem area for review and provide a list of the documents you have attached.)

1975 USDA Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) Johnson Bayou Watershed Map

7. Additional information regarding the project area, problem or proposed action (if known):
(example: estimate of project cost, state land, private land, federal easement are)

After creating a stakeholder-based context for resolving the water resource problems, this project will move immediately into the next course of action consisting of the development of a specific hydraulic and hydrologic (H&H) model for the levee enclosed area. The resultant final report and H&H model will provide a formal synopsis of the issues encountered by the UCP stakeholders and would serve as a primary reference for Pointe Coupee Parish and others to continue efforts to address these water resource issues in a sustainable way that could benefit both the local and regional stakeholders as well as the broader Basin ecology.

The entire project from the stakeholder input phase to the development of the H & H model has an estimated cost of \$375,000.

